UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE
ON THE APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE LESS DEVELOPED AREAS

E/CONF.39/C/410
SUMMARY
27 Oct.1962
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL : FRENCH

SUMMARY

Agenda Item: C.7.3

Bulgaria

LOGGING IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

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LOGGING IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

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SUMMARY.

The forest land in the People's Republic of Bulgaria amounts to 3,704,000 hectares, about 33% of its territory. It is subdivided by type of forest as follows: coniferous - 15%, broadleaf, highstem - 48%, broadleaf, small size - 37%.

The forests occupy mainly the mountainous regions of the country with prevailing steep slopes. The methods of management of the forests in this country are determined by the mountainous character of our forests and by their important water preserving and protecting functions. For example the industrial use of forests is carried out by progressive and patch fellings - 70%, regulating and hygienic fellings - 15%, and by clear fellings - 15% (for reconstruction of low-production stands).

The unification of all measures concerning logging in the whole country is facilitated by the circumstance that all forests are in public ownership.

In this country each year are logged 3,500,000 cu.m. timber and 2,380,000 cu.m. firewood. Beside this from the forests are obtained about 2150 tons of turpentine resin, 10,000 tons spruce bark, 18,600 tons of splinters, 21,000 tons of charcoal, 4,100 tons of oak bark, and 2,500 tons of sumach.

The logging is carried out in three processes: (a) felling and preliminary dressing of the logs; (b) skidding of the materials cut to the truck loading station; and (c) transport of the logs to the saw mills or railway stations.

A. CUTTING AND DRESSING

The felling is done by felling brigades equipped with all necessary tools and appliances: power saws, hand saws, axes, wedges, and the like. The brigades consist of 5 to 8 men, depending on the stand of the felling site. The felling and the cross cutting of the logs, as well as the removal of the main branches is mechanized. In this process the most important operation is the cross cutting of the logs in the best profitable lengths in order to ensure the production of most valuable timber assortments. The responsibility for this operation is born by the leader of the brigade.

The logging is carried out after a special technical schedule.

Nowadays a new logging technique is applied consisting in transfer of most cross cutting operations to the landings, where the conditions of work are more favourable. The introduction of this technique has raised the labour productivity by 4-5% and increased the production of timber by 5-6% at the expense of the firewood.

The felling is done by means of power saws of light type. This process is mechanized to 80% and it is expected to achieve full mechanization in the next few years.

B. SKIDDING OF THE LOGS FROM FELLING SITES TO THE LANDINGS

Owing to the steep terrains and the poor density of the forest transport network (7.15 running meters to the hectare of woodland) the skidding of the logs is effected by one of the following three methods: by draught animals, by overhead cable lines and tractor haulage. In the whole country about 60% of all logging is carried out by means of draught animals, the remaining 40% being mechanized.

The mechanized logging is effected with the aid of 282 cable lines of different types, 30 caterpillar tractors and 25 special cross country trucks.

The cable lines show best economical results when they are able to seize loads dispersed on the both sides of their route.

One cable line, operated by 6 men, is able to handle 10,000 cu.m. of forest loads yearly.

One caterpillar tractor operated by two men has a daily capacity of 15 cu.m. at a distance of 1 km and spares five pairs of animals.

The cable lines are planned by experienced specialists which work out at the same time the necessary technical specification and economic substantiation.

The mounting of the cable lines is carried out by special brigades in short terms of 15-20 days.

C. LONG-DISTANCE TRANSPORT OF LOGS

This transport is fully mechanized by means of trucks. The loading only is made in most cases manually and is facilitated by ramps erected on the loading stations. Only 5% of the loading operations are mechanized by means of 3-ton trucks.

The complex organization of the labour in the forestries introduced some time ago raises the labour productivity by 12-16% and prevents undue long lying of the materials on the felling sites and the truck loading stations.

The logging is carried out all the year around by permanent and temporary workers. The Forestry Boards take special care of their workers supplying them free with equipment, tools, working clothes, etc. They are housed in dormitories and catered for in canteens.

Much attention is devoted to the improvement of their professional skill, by training courses and meetings for pooling experience.

The workers are paid according to the common rates for forestry workers, established by a state table of remuneration for labour.

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